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Foreign Section Editors :

A. R. Kitson & R. F. Porter

Editorial Address :

The Lodge, Sandy,
Bedfordshire, England

White-headed Ducks



EDITORIAL

The National Parks Department of Turkey under Dr. Bayer have launched an extensive programme of activities to mark European Conservation Year, as a result of which conferences have been organised at national and provincial levels to stress the importance of the principles of conservation. The most noteworthy of these was undoubtedly that held in Ankara on 30th March which was addressed personally by the Prime Minister, Mr. Demirel, in a most enlightened speech. A Turkish Nature Conservation Week has been set up and in it tree festivals arranged with the co-operation of the Ministries of Agriculture, the Interior and National Education. The Army too is giving help. Special posters and pamphlets of a technical and instructive nature have been prepared and talks given over the Turkish radio. In fact the National Parks Department are making an extensive effort to bring the importance of the conservation of Turkey's natural resources to the country as a whole, and are doing their utmost to ensure that the planned industrial and touristic development of the country is carried out on the soundest possible principles.

Mr. Richard Porter has now completed his programme of 5 visits. This programme was sponsored by the I.W.R.B. and the I.C.B.P. and his work has contributed greatly to the general ornithological knowledge of Turkey and its various habitats, in particular the wetlands.

Mr. Stanley Cramp, Chairman of the R.S.P.B., visited Turkey in the spring and gave two lectures, one in Ankara and the other in Istanbul. These talks were sponsored jointly by the National Parks Department and the British Council, and were a great success. It is hoped, with the co-operation of the British Council, that further talks of this nature can be arranged in the future.

Members of the Council

Because of pressure of other activities our Treasurer, Mr. J.P. Knowles and Mr. Hayo Hoekstra have decided they can no longer continue to serve on the Council. We thank them for their help. At the moment Mr. Richard Porter is combining the duties of Secretary and Treasurer. Fresh members will be elected to the Council at the Annual General Meeting in December.

The National Parks Department in conjunction with the Ministry of Tourism have drawn up plans for building a museum, library, lecture room and small guest house at the Manyas Reserve. Work is expected to start in the autumn and when completed should provide valuable amenities for naturalists wishing to work at the Reserve.

Wildfowl Census

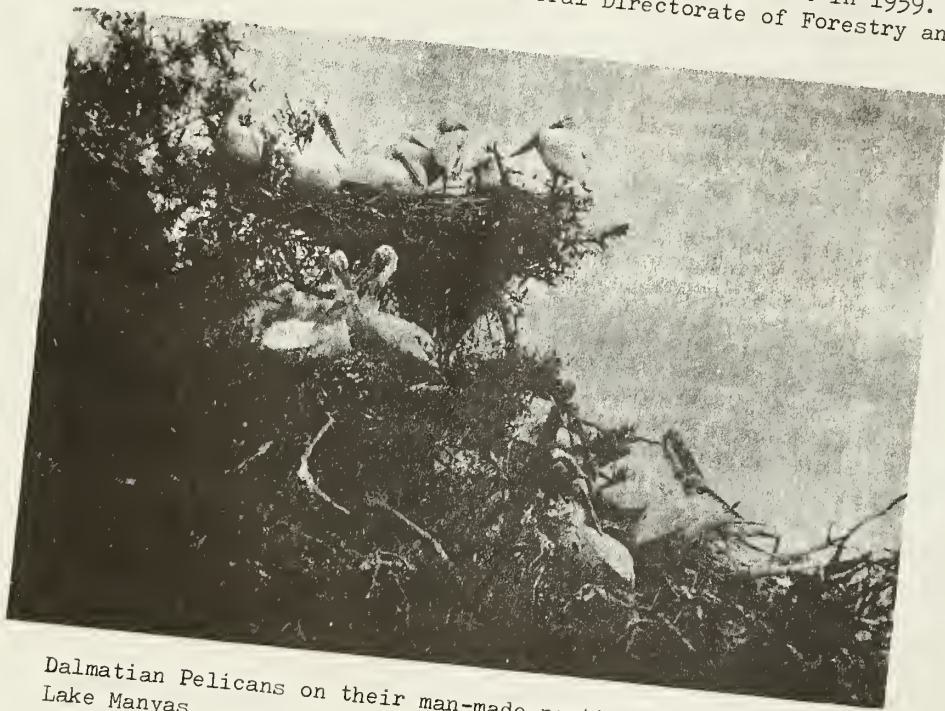
The dates for the next counts are 14-22 November, 1970, and 9 - 24 January, 1971. If there is anyone willing and able to help in these counts they should write at once to: W.H. Wilkinson, 119 Castelnau, Barnes, London, S.W.13.

The Annual General Meeting

The third A.G.M. of the Foreign Section will be held at Bowmaker House, 55/56 St. James's Street, London S.W.1. on Wednesday, December 2nd, 1970. (The nearest underground stations are Green Park or Piccadilly.) All members are invited to attend. The meeting, which will commence at 1830 hours, will be of an informal nature and time will be devoted to general discussions. Minutes of last year's A.G.M. are circulated with this Bulletin.

A success story for the Dalmatian Pelicans (*Pelecanus crispus*) at Lake Manyas
by Tansu Gulpinar (Technical Director of the Lake Manyas National Park)

The Kus Cenneti, as the Lake Manyas National Park is known, is the first bird reserve in Turkey. Discovered by Prof. Dr. C. Kosswig (a Vice President of the O.S.T.) and his wife in 1938, it was classified as a National Park by Act of Parliament in 1959. Since then the control of the reserve has been under the General Directorate of Forestry and its National Parks Department.



Dalmatian Pelicans on their man-made nesting platforms at
Lake Manyas
Photo by WALTER FENDRICH (WIEN)

The 52 hectare reserve is situated on the north east shore of the lake and here, among the willow trees that form a small wood, flooded to a depth of 2 - 3 feet in spring and summer, are the nesting birds - Grey Herons (*Ardea cinerea*), Purple Herons (*Ardea purpurea*), Spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*), Little Egrets (*Egretta garzetta*), Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) and Pygmy Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*).

In the last 4 years, when censuses were carried out, the total "heron" nesting population within the reserve has been 1,500 - 2,000 pairs, but in addition there are other smaller colonies in the willows on the southern and eastern edges of the lake and these bring the lake's total nesting population of "herons", Spoonbills and Cormorants to nearly 3,000 pairs.

From spring to late autumn, pelicans (*Pelecanus* sp.), both Dalmatian and White (*P. onocrotalus*) are on the lake, the number of onocrotalus often exceeding 2,000, but these are migrants or non-breeders. The Dalmatian Pelicans, however, do nest, not in the reeds as is their custom elsewhere in Europe and Asia, but in the willow trees. This phenomena was apparently discovered in 1966 by Ali Kizilay, the excellent warden of the reserve and that year 13 pairs were found nesting on the southern and eastern edge of the lake. A similar number was present in 1967 but, unfortunately, due to disturbance (fishermen were frequently seen with their boats moored to the trees in which the birds were nesting) no young were raised.

It was decided then after much discussion to try to encourage the Pelicans to nest inside the Kus Cenneti and so in the autumn of 1967, Ali Kizilay and myself set about building nesting platforms on the tops of short willow trees on the western edge of the reserve. The branches on the trees were cut down on three sides around the platform so that the Pelicans could have a good view of the surrounding area and could land and take off easily. The platform was built out of large branches and covered with reeds, and measured 2 metres by 3 metres in size.

Dalmatian Pelicans arrived at the lake as usual in the following March and we were curious and hopeful that the experiment would work. Then a week after their arrival, on 4th April, 1968, the first Pelican circled round over the reserve and finally settled to inspect the "man-made nest site". Twenty-six Pelicans eventually arrived and built nests and great care was taken to not disturb them; at least 5 young were raised, but the exact figure could not be ascertained as we did not want to approach the site too closely.

Again, in the autumn of 1968, we set to work and this time built three more platforms - 50 birds arrived in the spring of 1969 and proceeded to build their nests, lay their eggs and raise their young - 17 in all flew successfully. Last autumn (1969), Ali Kizilay repaired the platforms and made sure they were well secure and this year, for the third year running the birds returned again and at the time of writing this article we think that about 35 pairs are nesting.

I am very proud to be associated with this success story and pleased that we have been able to carry out constructive conservation that has benefitted a decreasing species.

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Visitors to Turkey should visit the reserve at Lake Manyas, this is sign-posted "Kus Cenneti" on the Balikesir - Bandirma road about 15 km south of Bandirma. Bandirma is the sea port on the southern edge of the Sea of Marmara.

MAPS OF TURKEY

We are frequently asked to recommend maps for visiting ornithologists. We suggest:-

For general use : The Turkish Highway Map - published by the Ministry of Tourism and Information - free of charge.

Offices in Europe are :- Weissfrauenstrasse 2-8, Frankfurt/Main, West Germany.

42 Rue d'Aranberg, Brussels, Belgium.

9 Skeppergatan, Stockholm, Sweden.

Schottenring 18, Vienna, Austria.

102 Avenue des Champs Elysees, Paris 8, France.

49 Conduit Street, London, W.1., England.

For detailed use: Ministry of Defence (Army) Topographical Maps, Series 1301 (4646). Scale 16 miles to 1". These maps are obtainable from:-

Edward Stanford Ltd., 12-14 Long Acre, London W.C.2.

(Ask for price list as prices may frequently change.)

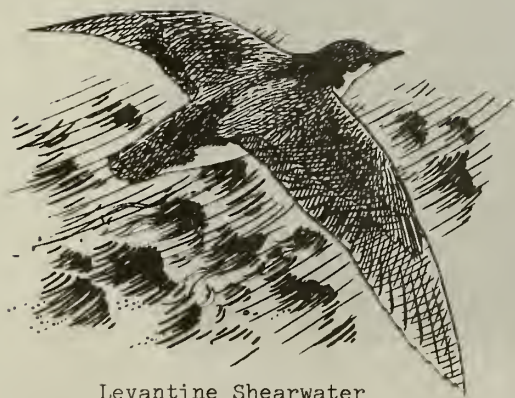
PROVISIONAL CHECK LIST OF THE BIRDS OF TURKEY

The Records and Editorial Committee are preparing a check-list giving brief details of the status of all species that have been recorded in Turkey. This is to be based on H. Kumerloeve's "List Systematique Reivsee des Especies D'Oiseaux de Turquie" (Alauda, XXIV, No. 3, 1966). The check list will be published in the next Bulletin.

ILLUSTRATIONS

The line illustrations in this issue, again drawn by Ian Willis, depict just two of the many species that occur in Turkey about which very little is known - the White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) and Levantine Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus yelkouan*). The former winters in large numbers on Lake Burdur in S.W. Anatolia (over 2,000 were recorded there in January 1970) and is seen in small numbers on spring and autumn migration. Summering flocks have also been recorded. Does it, however, breed? Does it only winter on lakes in the Burdur area? What is its numerical status? These are just a few of the questions we would like to find answers to about this rare species of wildfowl.

The Levantine Shearwater can be seen observed at certain times of the year passing in large numbers (up to 6,000 per hour) both north and south through the Bosphorous. Feeding flocks can also be seen in the Sea of Marmara and Black Sea. What, however, is not known is where these birds breed, though it is thought possibly to be on the islands of the Sea of Marmara and Aegean. To find their exact breeding locality and explain their vast (feeding?) movements could form an exciting project for a visiting expedition.



Levantine Shearwater